

I CLAIM:

1. A system for composing a report, comprising:
  - data processing means for receiving and  
5 processing data;
  - data input means for use by a user to input data  
for transmission to said data processing means;
  - a visual display for displaying data by said data  
processing means;
  - 10 wherein said data processing means is operable:
    - 1) to display data indicative of a plurality of  
sets of data or databases;
    - 2) to receive data from data input means  
indicative of a selection from said sets of data or  
15 databases;
    - 3) to respond to the receipt of said selection  
from said sets of data or databases by immediately  
displaying data indicative of categories of data contained  
in said selection from said sets of data or databases;
    - 20 4) to receive data from data input means  
indicative of a selection from said categories of said  
data;
    - 5) to respond to the receipt of said selection  
from said categories by immediately displaying data  
25 indicative of said selection of categories in the form of  
at least one control screen having, for each of said  
categories, a position menu for controlling a position in  
said report to be occupied by said respective category of  
data and a sorting menu for controlling a sorting priority  
30 to be assigned to said respective category of data;
  - wherein said system is thereby controllable by  
said user to generate a report on the basis of a  
respective setting assigned to each of said respective  
position and to each of said respective sorting menus by  
35 said user.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein, for each of

said categories, said position menu includes an option indicating the non-display of said respective category of data and said sorting menu includes an option indicating that sorting should not proceed on the basis of said  
5    respective category whether or not said respective category is to be displayed.

3.    A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control screen further includes, for each of said categories, a  
10    data processing menu for controlling a manner in which the content of a respective category of data should be processed.

4.    A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data  
15    processing menu includes one or more options selected from the group comprising: averaging, totalling, extracting a maximum value, and extracting a minimum value.

5.    A method for composing a report, comprising:  
20            displaying data indicative of a plurality of sets of data or databases to a user using a visual display by means of a computer;  
             inputting data to said computer indicative of a selection from said sets of data or databases;  
25            immediately displaying on said display data indicative of categories of data contained in said selection from said sets of data or databases by means of said computer;  
             making a selection from said categories of said  
30    data and inputting to said computer data indicative of said selection;  
             immediately displaying on said display data indicative of said selection of categories in the form of at least one control screen having, for each of said  
35    categories, a position menu for controlling a position in said report to be occupied by said respective category of data and a sorting menu for controlling a sorting priority

to be assigned to said respective category of data; and  
controlling said computer by means of said  
control screen to generate a report on the basis of a  
respective setting assigned to each of said respective  
5 position and to each of said respective sorting menus by  
said user.

6. A computer program product directly loadable into the  
internal memory of a computer, comprising software code  
10 portions for performing the steps of the method for  
composing a report as claimed in claim 5 when said product  
is run on a computer.

7. A computer program product stored on a computer  
15 useable medium, comprising computer readable program means  
for causing a computer to perform the steps of the method  
for composing a report as claimed in claim 5.

8. A computer readable medium, having a program recorded  
20 thereon, wherein said program is for making a computer  
execute the method for composing a report as claimed in  
claim 5.